

PREGNANCY PREVENTION INTERVENTION IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Intervention Name: *Rikers Health Advocacy Program*


Developer: Stephen Magura, PhD

Program Description: *Rikers Health Advocacy Program* (RHAP) is designed to produce problem-solving skills for HIV/AIDS prevention among high-risk youth, particularly drug users and youth in correctional facilities. The program features a "Problem-Solving Therapy" approach, which focuses on problem orientation, defining and formulating a problem, generating alternative solutions, decision making, and implementing a solution.

Component 1: Small-Group Intervention

The program was originally delivered to a small group of male participants in a correctional facility setting. The intervention consists of four one-hour sessions delivered by a male instructor, biweekly over two weeks. Participants are engaged through sharing and discussion of facts and beliefs about HIV. They identify particular attitudes or behaviors that require modification and suggest potential solutions, which are then evaluated by other participants. The program includes role-play and rehearsal exercises for implementation of the suggested solutions. Topics discussed include general HIV education information; factors related to drug initiation or drug use; the meaning and consequences of sexual activity; the relationship between drug use and sexual activity and HIV risk; and how to seek health care services, social services, and drug treatment.

Target Population: Available information describes the target population as high-risk youth, particularly drug users and youth in correctional facilities.

Curriculum Materials: The curriculum package includes a user's guide, protocol handbook, and evaluation instruments. Materials can be purchased as a package or individually online through <http://www.socio.com/passt10.php> 

Training and TA: There is no formal training required for this program. However, it is recommended that group leaders are the same gender as program participants, feel comfortable working with high-risk populations, and are knowledgeable about the curriculum and strategies for facilitating group discussion.

Research Evidence¹

Study Citation:	Magura, S., Kang, S. Y., & Shapiro, J. L. (1994). Outcomes of intensive AIDS education for male adolescent drug users in jail. <i>The Journal of Adolescent Health: Official Publication of the Society for Adolescent Medicine</i> , 15(6), 457–463.
Population Evaluated:	Incarcerated, inner-city adolescent males <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age range between 16 and 19 years• 64% African American, 33% Hispanic, 2% white
Setting:	Small-group sessions at the New York City Department of Correction's Adolescent Reception and Detention Center on Rikers Island
Study Findings:	At the 5-month follow-up: adolescents who had engaged in heterosexual sex (prior to arrest) and who participated in the intervention reported significantly higher frequency of condom use during vaginal, oral, or anal sex.

¹ This summary of evidence is limited to studies of the intervention meeting the inclusion criteria and evidence standards for the Pregnancy Prevention Research Evidence Review. Findings from these studies include only those showing a statistically significant positive impact on sexual risk behavior or its health consequences. Studies may present other positive findings beyond those described; however, they were not considered as evidence for effectiveness because they focused on non-priority outcomes or subgroups, did not meet baseline equivalence requirements, or were based on follow-up data with high sample attrition. For additional details on the review process and standards, see the review's Technical Documentation.